

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately following the title, please insert the following paragraph and heading as follows:

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of October 23, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Italian patent application MI2003A002071 as well as the priority date of 24 April 2004, the filing date of the corresponding International patent application PCT/EP2004/004360.

Background of the Invention

On page 2, line 9, please add the following heading:

Summary of the Invention

On page 2, line 26, please add the following heading:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 2, lines 27-29, please amend this paragraph and add a heading as follows:

The apparatus according to the invention described hereafter with reference to Figures 1 and 2 is an effective practical embodiment of these principles. In the drawing:

Fig. 1a shows the heating element having reached the bottom of the product drum;

Fig. 1b shows the heating element raised out of the product drum; and

Fig. 2 is a plan view onto the arrangement of Figs. 1a and 1b.

Description of Specific Embodiments

On page 2, line 31, through page 3, line 2, please amend this paragraph as follows:

On page 2, lines 33-35, please amend this paragraph as follows:

A heating element constituted by ~~armoured~~armored resistors shaped as concentric rings and junction spokes 1 borne by a hoist 2 is set down onto the upper surface of the product 3 to

be melted contained in the original drum of the product 4. The heating element is subjected to the thrust deriving from its own weight and that of the connected movable masses (rod of the hoisting cylinder, load-bearing arms, transfer pump, suction tube, etc.).

On page 3, lines 9-14, please amend this paragraph as follows:

~~Note that the~~The vertical rods 6 that connect the heating elements to the load-bearing arm are not heated: since they remain outside the product for a long time, if they were heated then they would rapidly reach very high surface temperatures, such as to damage the product when they entered it.

On page 3, lines 23-26, please amend this paragraph as follows:

When the heating element reaches the bottom dead ~~centre~~center of its travel and is near the bottom of the drum, the entire mass is liquefied with the exception of a few residual nuclei.

On page 4, lines 20-23, please amend this paragraph as follows:

When the drum is empty, the hoist is raised to the top dead ~~centre~~center (see Figure 1b) with a manual command. The empty drum can thus be replaced with a full one and the entire operation can be repeated for a number of times n.

On page 5, lines 10-12, please amend this paragraph as follows:

$2 \times 1.5 \text{ mm} \times 1 \text{ g/m}^2 \times 150 \text{ m/min} - 450 \text{ g/min} - 0.5 \text{ l/min}$. Therefore, a 200 ~~litre~~liter drum is consumed in 400 min, i.e. in less than 7 hours.

On page 5, after line 19, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of Italian priority document MI2003A002071 filed October 23, 2003 and PCT/EP2004/004360 filed April 24, 2004.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.

In addition, please add the attached abstract to the specification: